

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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**November 23, 2004**

**FROM: MARY R. SAWICKI, DIRECTOR  
Department of Aging & Adult Services**

**SUBJECT: PURCHASE ORDER TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order to the Riverside County Office On Aging, for a total amount not to exceed \$41,250 for Medicare Access to Benefits Program services.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** On December 8, 2003, President George W. Bush signed into law the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003. Under this legislation, the Medicare Approved Drug Discount Card and Transitional Assistance Credit Program were created. Beginning in the spring of 2004, eligible Medicare beneficiaries were able to enroll in a Medicare-approved discount card program (The Discount Card), that offers discounts on their prescription drugs. The Discount Card is a voluntary program. The Discount Card is intended to be a temporary program to provide immediate assistance by lowering prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries during 2004 and 2005. This temporary program will end when Medicare implements a new, comprehensive prescription drug benefit that will begin January 1, 2006.

On August 17, 2004, the Board of Supervisors ratified two grant applications submitted by the Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) seeking funds to implement a Medicare Access to Benefits Program through the Riverside/San Bernardino Counties Access to Benefits Coalition (the Coalition). The program will target low-income senior citizens and individuals with disabilities who are beneficiaries of Medicare living in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and who do not receive prescription assistance from the Medi-Cal (Medicaid) program.

DAAS is the lead agency of the Coalition, with the Riverside County Office On Aging (RCOOA) serving as a primary partner. One grant application in the amount of \$40,000 was submitted to the National Coalition on Aging (NCOA). The other grant application, in the amount of \$50,000, was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Benefits (CMS). Both of the grant applications were selected for funding.

Approval of a Grantee Agreement with the NCOA, along with Amendment No. 1, was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on September 28, 2004. The Grantee Agreement and Amendment total \$40,000, of which \$7,500 was allocated directly to DAAS by the NCOA for the administration of the project. The remaining \$32,500 must be split equally with the RCOOA. Approval of the contact with Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide, administrator of the CMS grant, was ratified by the Board on October 5, 2004. This contract is in the amount of \$50,000 and funds must be split equally with the RCOOA.

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Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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ACCESS TO BENEFITS PROGRAM**

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County Policy 11-05 requires County departments to seek approval when contracting for services in excess of \$25,000 per scope of services, per contractor, per department, per budget fiscal year. Approval of this purchase order will allow DAAS to pay the RCOOA its portion of the NCOA funding (\$16,250) and CMS funding (\$25,000) to provide Discount Card outreach, education, enrollment assistance, and follow-up services to eligible Medicare beneficiaries residing in Riverside County.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS:** This agenda item has been reviewed by the Office of County Counsel (Phebe W. Chu, Deputy County Counsel, 387-4725) on November 4, 2004, HSS Finance (John Hallen, Administrative Analyst, 388-0208) on November 8, 2004, and by the County Administrative Office (Gary Morris, Administrative Analyst, 388-0356) on November 5, 2004.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Approval of this action will result in no additional cost to the County. The resulting appropriation of \$41,250 is fully funded by the NCOA and CMS grant awards. The Department will include the appropriate revenues and appropriations in the mid-year revision of the FY 04/05 budget.

**Cost Reduction Review:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends this action based on the fact that the purchase order is fully funded by Federal revenue sources that are not in jeopardy in FY04/05. There is no local cost.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** All

**PRESENTER:** Mary R. Sawicki, Director, Department of Aging and Adult Services, 891-3918

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